

Civic Minds

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Article Title: **Cities soon might be running out of millennials**

Section: Main, A1

Learning Objectives

- ✓ Students will examine city planning and housing trends and why major cities might be running out of millennials.
- ✓ Compare and contrast city vs. suburban living

CCSS Standards

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.1.b

Work with peers to promote civil, democratic discussions and decision-making, set clear goals and deadlines, and establish individual roles as needed.

Social Studies EALR 1: Civics

The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation's fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship.

Social Studies EALR 3: Geography

Understands the cultural universals of place, time, family life, economics, communication, arts, recreation, food, clothing, shelter, transportation, government, and education.

- Analyzes and evaluates the social and political factors affecting cultural interactions.

Social Studies EALR 4: History

- Analyzes the motives and interests behind an interpretation of a recent event.

Social Studies EALR 5: Social Studies

- Analyzes consequences of positions on an issue or event.
- Analyzes the short-term and long-term implications of decisions affecting the global community.

Vocabulary

Look up the definition of **gentrification**. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

"The presence of so many young college graduates upended many U.S. cities. You can see it in the hordes of techies congregating on weekends at Dolores Park in San Francisco and in the battles over **gentrification**."

Comprehension Questions

1. During the past decade, many U.S. cities have been transformed by what group?
2. Demographers, along with economists and real-estate consultants, are starting to contemplate what urban cores will look like now that the generation — the United States' largest — is doing what?
3. Who are Millennials generally considered to be?
4. There are some signs that the inflow of young professionals into cities has reached its peak, and that the outflow of mid-30s couples to the _____ has resumed after stalling during the Great Recession.

5. Dowell Myers, a professor of demography and urban planning at the University of Southern California, recently published a paper that noted U.S. cities reached “peak millennial” in what year?
6. Why have apartment rents started to soften in some big cities recently?
7. Their choices — and it will be at least a few years before a definitive direction is clear — will have an effect on what two main issues for the city’s impacted?
8. People get older. Another is that people’s tolerance for entry-level jobs and small urban apartments is highest when they are _____.
9. So while many things affect the increasing popularity of city living, including lower crime rates and a preference for walkable neighborhoods, one of the biggest factors is simply the number of people who are around _____.
10. Each era has its economic challenges, and many millennials had the misfortune of entering adulthood during what time?
11. When city populations started swelling in the early and mid-2000s, it had less to do with the first of the millennials moving in than it did with what issue?
12. Apartment developers have responded with a boom in new construction. In 2013, the number of people moving into and out of cities started to balance out for the first time since the recession, largely because what?
13. Some research also shows that, while millennials seem to prefer cities in their youth, the draw of the _____ is still strong.

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts

- If you had the choice to live downtown in the city or in a suburb, where would you choose to live? Why?
- Do you think the demand for urban living for young adults will stall? Why or why not?

The debate is full of contours and caveats, but it really boils down to this: Are large numbers of millennials really so enamored with city living that they will age and raise families inside the urban core, or will many of them, like earlier generations, eventually head to the suburbs in search of bigger homes and better school districts?

- What did your parents do when they were younger? Where did they choose to live and why?
- Are bigger homes and better school districts important when buying a home, as people get older and start to think about raising families? Why or why not?

It could also have a big effect on the U.S. landscape more generally. For the past half-century, the trend toward suburbanization has continued with no real opposition. Even in the 1990s and 2000s, when urban areas were starting to turn around, subdivisions continued to expand.

- Have millennials ended that trend? Why or why not?

The counterargument is some version of “this time is different.” And millennials do seem to embrace cities more than their boomer parents did.

- Why? What are they doing differently?

For these reasons and others, Joe Cortright, director of the City Observatory, an urban think tank in Portland is predicting that cities will continue to swell with young people coming in and older people staying longer.

- Do you think young people will always be attracted to city living? Why or why not?
- Why do you think older people are staying living in the city longer?

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